1 Dec 1970

Dear Harold:

The quotation that you cite is not from Dante's Inferno, but refers to it-- to Canto III, to be exact. (Copy of the first hundred verses is attached).

In a way, the quotation is erroneous. The Neutrals do not have a place in Hell, but just outseide the Gates of Hell. They never really lived, so they are not allowed really to die-- to find a place in Heaven or Hell. Even the Devil doesn't want them, they are such a dreadful lot.

The bullet found on Dealey Plaza: This si bound to be a dead end for us-- no matter whether the bullet was used in the assassination or not. Even if we were to learn everything about the bullet except whether it was fired at the Pres, we would have learned nothing relevant. And there is just no way for us to know that.

The best thing is as you suggest. Thur it over to the government with an explanation how and where it was found, then let them worry about it. The FBI can have fun seeming to run a continuing investigation of the assassination, but really investigating nothing. Even they can't find out as much as we would like to know, and if we can't find out that mush, it's a waste of time to try to find out anything.

If the bullet had 4 grooves left twist, the rifle had 4 grooves right twist. 4 groove right twist .30 caliber rifles are as common as a sneeze. If the pitch of the twist were unique, it might be possible to identify the type of rifle. Also some other unique feature about the bullet might make ti psooible to identify the cartridge.

Your correspondednt (whose signiture I cannot read) suggested 152 grains as the original weight because he supposes-- without warrant-- that the bullet was fired in the 30/06 cartridge. The standard military 30/06 is 152 grains.

A more likely candidate is one that suggests to me somebody playing a grim joke. The cartidge called 7.62 Russian (.30 cal) fires a 150 grain .30 caliber bullet (spire point). The rifle thet fires this bullet is the Russian Model 1940 Tokarev Rifle-- with 4 grooves and right twist.

Anyway, I think that the best thing is to let the bullet go-- don't destroy it, just get rid of it. It's a blind alley.

I understand your correspondent's concern, and think he did right, but now I think we should drop the matter.

My writing on the fragments is going good. I need to collect some photos and some authoritative statements on a certain matter, but otherwise it is almost done. It is air tight, impreganable, unassailable.

Still,

Dick

Bernabei